

# NOVEMBER

Magic Lantern Society

## NEWS 2024



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and  
roll-over effects

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the Season



## The Magic Lantern Calendar –November 2024

### Events

Nov. 1-3, 2024, **Dia De Los Muertos**, including magic lantern show by Matt Schnittker, Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, 4002 Wallace St., San Diego CA 92110.

Nov. 2, 2024, **Lighting the Industrial Revolution**, exploring safety, domestic and industrial lighting, looking at Victorian gas and electrical lighting, with a magic lantern in the Limelight Cinema, Black Country Living Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley, DY1 4SQ, UK.

Nov. 2, 2024, **The Phantasmagoria: A Day of the Dead** Magic Lantern Show, lanternists Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker will summon up this art of illusionists, Guy's Hospital Chapel, St. Thomas Street, London SE1, England.

Nov. 4, 202, **Ueda-ke Nishiki Kage-e Project with Nishiki Kage-e Ikeda-gumi**, performing a longer story at Kyu Ueda-ke Jutaku, a designated cultural asset of Yao City, Osaka Prefecture, the Former Ueda Family Residence, 64-2 Higashi-ido Kaide-cho, Muko City, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan.

Nov. 15-17, 2024, **Journey through Time**, magic lantern show by Matt Schnittker, Strathearn Historical Park, 137 Strathearn Pl, Simi Valley, CA 93065.

Nov. 17, 2024, **Sakura Shiranami Hyoito-bukuro** (Cherry Blossoms falling, a burglar and a possessed bean bag), Nishiki Kage-e performance, part of special exhibition at Suita City Museum, 4 Chrome-10-1 Kishibekita, Suita, Osaka 564-0001, Japan.

Nov. 21, 2024, **Dave MacLean and the Magic Lantern Show**, featuring Edgar Allen Poe's 'The Telltale Heart' adapted for the Magic Lantern. Starr Clark Tin Shop & Underground Rail Road, 3250 Main St., Mexico, NY.

Nov. 21, 2024, **A Magic Lantern Show**, talk by Irene Marriott, Southwick Camera Club, Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick St., Southwick, BN42 4TE, England.

Nov. 23 and 24, 2024, **Victorian Christmas**, experience the traditions of Christmas as the Schoolmaster entertains you with a seasonal Magic Lantern Show, Halifax Citadel National Historic Site, 5425 Sackville St., Halifax, B3J 3Y3, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Dec. 15, 2024, **A Family Edwardian Christmas at Lauriston Castle**, includes a traditional magic lantern show, Lauriston Castle, 2a Cramond Road South, Edinburgh, Scotland EH4 5QD UK

Dec. 15, 2024, **Magic Lantern Show**, a glimpse of 19 th -century Venice through original slides of the period, enhancing a little-known but historically and aesthetically valuable photographic heritage, brought to life by Laura Minici Zotti, founder of the museum. Museo del Precinema, Prato della Valle 1/A, Padova, Italy.

Dec. 20, 2024, **Magic Lantern Christmas Show**, Patrick Furley provides a Christmas show using original plates and readings, Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society Museum & Heritage Centre, The Chipping, Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire GL12 7AD, England.

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## Calendar –continued

Jan. 25, 2025, **Annual General Meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), The Musical Museum, 399 High Street, Brentford, London TW8 0DU, England.

Jul. 17 – 31, 2025, **Harper Thursday and the Magic Lantern**, a theatrical adventure, this enchanting production invites families to embark on a journey filled with wonder and imagination. The Common Room, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SE, England.

Through 2025, **Project Space Residency**, featuring Melissa Ferrari, Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

Sundays through Thursdays, **Salem on Foot: Magic Lantern Tour**, rare and strange images projected upon shadowy walls and darkened streets, bringing life to tales of ghosts and witchcraft and murder. Derby Square, Downtown Salem, MA.

### Exhibits

Through Oct. 31, 2024, **Exhibition: Collection, tell us a story**, stories through time, dimensions and space, in the world of the magic lantern, Musee de la Loire, Place de la Resistance, 58200 Cosne-Cours- Sur-Loire, France

Oct. 1 to Nov. 5, 2024, **Magic Lantern Tour**, offering visitors a captivating peek into Salem, Massachusetts' supernatural history. Participants explore the city's haunting sites while a magic lantern show p=transports them back in time, projecting rare 19 th -century glass slides. Salem, MA. Book at [roryobrienbooks.com/tours](http://roryobrienbooks.com/tours)

Nov. 7, 2024 to Jan. 17, 2025, **Acts of Projection**, showing U.S. Civil War artifacts of lantern shows – hand-painted slides and period projectors, as well as the actual projections to stimulate the original viewing experience. Anderson Gallery, College of Arts and Sciences, Drake University, 2507 University Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311.

Ongoing, Fred Harvey hand-colored photograph magic lantern slides, Wheels Museum, 1100 2 nd St SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Through Jan. 19, 2025, **In Your Wildest Dreams**: Ensor Beyond Impressionism, focusing on James Ensor's fascination with masks, skeletons, and caricatures, lanternists Ditmar Bollaert features a chamber theatre with continuous video projection, royal Museum of Fine Arts, Leopold de Waelplaats 1, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium.

Through Dec. 29, 2025, Im Zauber des Lichts – Bildrewelten der Laterna Magica: Magic Lantern and Toy Lantern Slide exhibition, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 6126 Neu-Anspach/Taunus, Germany.

### Online

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom. Contact Terry Borton: [tborton@magiclanternshows.com](mailto:tborton@magiclanternshows.com)

Media History Digital Library, <https://mediahistoryproject.org/collections/magic-lantern/> Magic lantern ephemera.

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

## About Lantern

**From Donald McCavitt**

dmccavitt@sbcglobal.net

Hello,  
I have this lantern from my grandparents and I'm not sure what this is. I was hoping you could at least tell me what it is, where it came from and who made it. Maybe what year it was made.

Attached are some photos.

Let me know if you have questions.

Best regards,  
Don McCavitt

**From David Evans**

Hello Donald

Thank you for contacting us.  
An interesting question.

It is undoubtedly German, a toy magic lantern with a cinematograph addition, which was not uncommon around 1910.

There were several German manufacturers of tin plate toy lanterns then. Ernst Plank springs to mind, as does Bing, both quite large scale manufacturers of tin toys, including cinematographs similar to yours. However, the initial "R" embossed in



**INFORMATION**

**Wanted**

the upper front is the unusual part. There is not a major manufacturer with that initial letter. I can only suggest J F Roose of Nurnberg, who was mentioned by Ernst Hrabalek in his book *Laterna Magica Optisches Spielzug* (Munchen, 1985) in a list of 'other German makers'.

We can add your enquiry and pictures in our next e-publication (November) in the hope that one of our German collectors may be able to shed more light on the matter.

If we come up with anything I will report back to you.

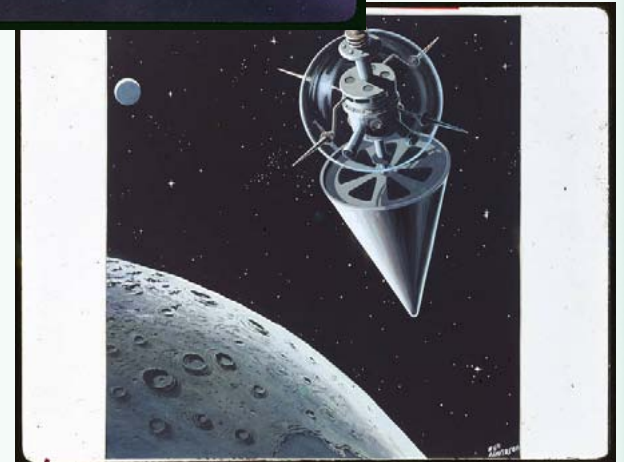
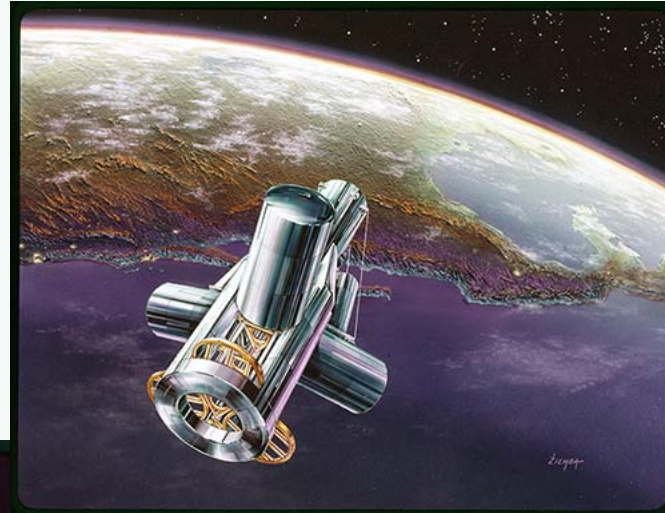
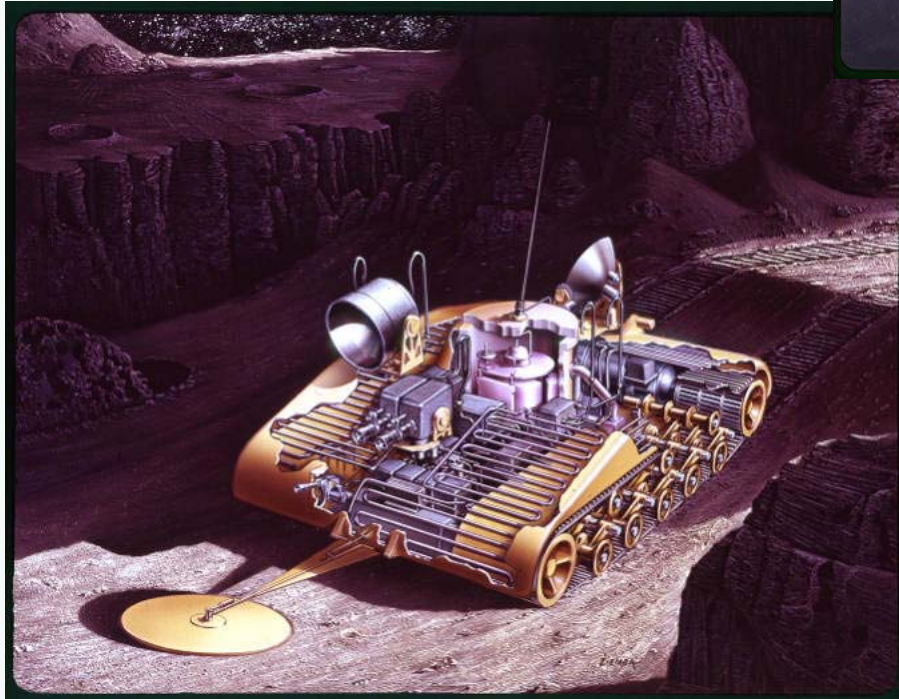
David Evans



## Saunders Kramer Lantern Slide Collection- SPACE 3.0 Foundation

### ABOUT THIS COLLECTION

The Saunders B. Kramer Lantern Slide Collection, held by Space 3.0 Foundation, Inc., consists of various diagrams, illustrations, and photographs of space vehicles that Kramer amassed during his time working for Lockheed-Martin. The bulk of the collection are diagrams and concept illustrations relating to the development of Kramer's Astrotug space shuttle and Tinkertoy space station designs, lunar satellites and rovers, and studies of the Soviet space program. Concept artists Ludwig Ziemba, Igor Mead, E. Bertaccini, and Ken Anderson painted Kramer's designs in various launch stages and environments.



<https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/skls>

## Wet Plate collodion “Art Photographers”



### From Matt Schnittker

Ya know,. I actually made Tintypes at the 2022 Convention. :)

This person’s artistry is impressive. Really impressive. We probably know some of the same people.

We have a few Wet Plate collodion “Art Photographers” in the US. These people are all better than me.

<https://cwfp.biz/kevinklein/>  
<https://nostalgicglasswetplatestudio.zenfolio.com/>  
<https://jonisternbach.com/>

...much better than me.... I am more like JC Penny Portrait Studio.

<https://schnittkersix.blogspot.com/2024/04/little-house-on-prairie-50-year-cast.html>



## Magic Lantern Show in Italy

### From Museo del PRECINEMA - Collezione Minici Zotti

[info@miniczotti.it](mailto:info@miniczotti.it)

Dear Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada, on

**December 15, 2024, at 6:00 PM,**

we are planning a Magic Lantern show, organized by our Museum, in the prestigious Rossini Hall of the historic Caffè Pedrocchi in Padova.

The show aims to offer the public a glimpse of 19th-century Venice through original slides of the period, enhancing a little-known but historically and aesthetically valuable photographic heritage. The event also aims to raise awareness of the enchantment of an ancient instrument that was the predecessor of the film projector, brought to life with expertise and passion directly by the skilled hands of Laura Minici Zotti, founder of the Precinema Museum, scholar and lanternist

The period considered spans the last decades of the 19th century and the early years of the 20th century. Laura Minici Zotti has devoted special attention to collecting images of Venice that document the changes in the city over the years. The intent is also to offer visitors a chance to admire a Venice that has now disappeared, provoking not only fascination for the place but also reflections on the transformations caused by the exponential increase in tourism.

After a brief introduction, a program consisting of around 100 slides will follow.

Please spread the event through your channels.

Museo del PRECINEMA  
Collezione Minici Zotti  
[miniczotti.it](http://miniczotti.it) Facebook Instagram  
Prato della Valle 1/A, Padova  
tel. +39 049 8763838



<https://www.miniczotti.it/en/homepage-2/>



## More Information and Images from the Convention Attendees



### From Larry Cederblom

I asked several participants and society members at the convention to share their photos and feelings about the convention for a special feature in the November E-pub.

A big thank you to Brett King for a very complete summary and sharing of his experience at the convention. The next four pages of text and photos are from Brett.

There are postings on the society Facebook site from Jason Anderson, Melissa Ferrari, Matthew Schnittker, and Edward Murray sharing their thoughts and reactions to the vast amount of creativity, knowledge, and talent that was shown at the convention.

As one of the oldest members of the society I'm completely at awe with the enthusiasm and energy that the younger participants put into the presentation of historical media.



**A Melissa Ferrari Photo**

### Explanation of Queen Mary Support Devices



The Victorian era technology made many devices that were there to support the Magic Lantern. Queen Mary's advanced projection support devices are a dual purpose device, they can be reversed and a beverage can be served to the visitors aboard the Queen Mary



**The forthcoming Gazette will be a special Convention issue, with a full description of all the events and many illustrations.**

## The 20 th International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society

### A Newcomer's Perspective

#### By Brett King

In September I had the good fortune of being able to cross the country to attend the 20 th International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society, held aboard the Queen Mary, the historic cruise ship turned hotel in Long Beach, California. The convention, the venue, and the people certainly delivered the “Magic” in the Magic Lantern Society.



**The Queen Mary and Me (Brett King)**

I've done a few magic lantern shows for friends and for steampunk conventions, but my knowledge has been mostly self-taught. When I saw that the bi-annual convention was coming up, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to up my presenting game and historical knowledge by learning from the experts. I was also hoping to pick up some new slides and perhaps a biunial lantern in the vendor room.



**A Biunial Lantern**

The experience began with checking into the hotel. Even though the ship has not moved in over 50 years, I had the sense that I was in 1936, stepping aboard for a trans-Atlantic voyage. The ship's art deco styling, with wood paneling and original fixtures, echoed the beauty of the wood and brass magic lanterns set up for projection in the Royal Salon, the primary room where the convention was held.



**The Queen Mary's Lounge**



**The Royal Salon**

The attendance was smaller than I expected, at around 40 attendees, but I found out later that attendance was quite good based on the size of the Society. There were representatives from all over the United States and Canada (I personally traveled from North Carolina). The intimate nature did lend itself well to making friendships and connections. I sat next to fellow newcomers Jason Anderson and Victoria Pamlenyi,



**Jason Anderson, Victoria Pamlenyi and myself**

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## A Newcomer's Perspective continued

**Matt Schnittker welcomes us**

and we immediately hit it off with a shared interest in the making side of things. We took great interest in the mechanics of slip slides and chromatropes, and Jason and Victoria even managed to prototype some slide



mechanisms with 3-d printing during the convention. I was able to personally meet about half the attendees. I would have liked to have met everyone, but the packed nature of the schedule did not leave a lot of extra time for socializing. Some longer breaks might be appreciated at future conventions.

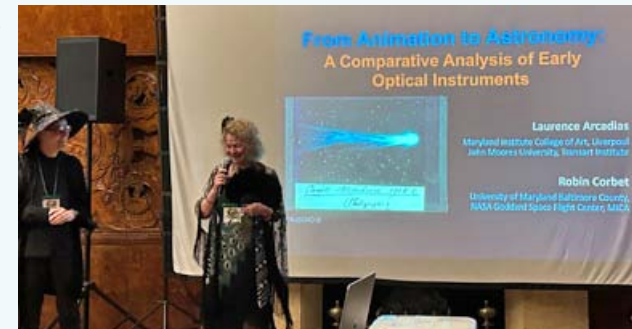
The programming was outstanding, however, and I greatly appreciated all the presenters who came to share their expertise and diverse perspectives. The convention hosts, Matt Schnittker and Melissa Ferrari, each gave multiple presentations and performances. It was interesting to see the different performance styles, with Matt's delightful narration of Disney slides and comedic slip slides, to Melissa's beautifully animated slides, using only the visuals and

accompanying music to tell the story. Melissa's performance on Hawaii was particularly spectacular, with its erupting volcano and live authentic Hawaiian chants by the group Shrine Maiden.

**An Astronomy Slide**



**Melissa Ferrari performs**



**Laurence Arcadias and Robin Corbet talk animation and astronomy**

Technical topics included LED lighting options for lanterns, animation in astronomy, early audio synchronization, and 3-D shadow projections. There

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## A Newcomer's Perspective continued



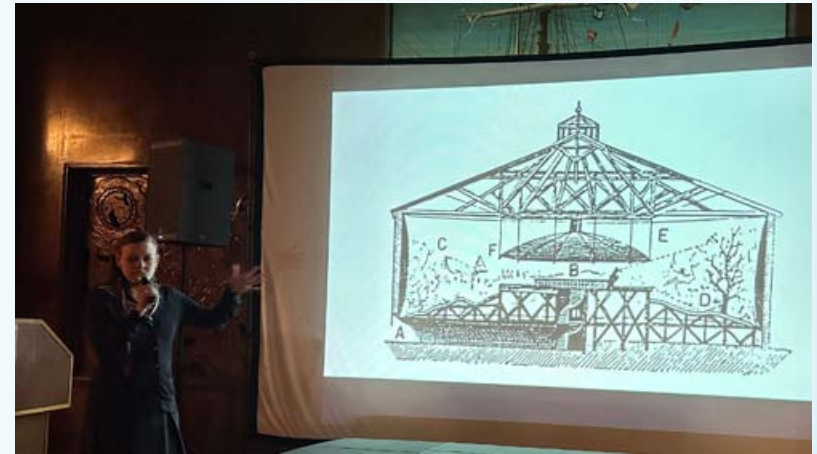
**Christine Marie shows 3-D shadows**

was a great moment of serendipity when Christine Marie, who was presenting on her 3-D shadow shows, lamented that her presentation did not do the in-person shows justice. In response, Eric Kurland, an exhibitor from 3-D Space, retrieved 3-D glasses for everyone so that we could get a better appreciation of Christine's work.

There were many enlightening historical presentations as well. Mindy Johnson shared the history of early animator and director Bessie Mae Kelley. Sara Velas, Ruby Carlson, and Janelle Blankenship gave talks on the roles of panorama theaters in early visual entertainment. Sara and Ruby invited attendees to visit their Velaslavasay



**Eric Kurland shows 3d viewers in the vendor room**



**Sara Velas shows the design of a panorama theater**

Panorama in Los Angeles after the convention was over, and several of us took us her up on the offer. Larry Rakow shared some interesting parallels between Magic Lantern slides and 19th Century interactive children's books. Jorgelina Orfila and Francisco Ortega described how the Magic Lantern enabled art history as a profession and modern classroom instruction, since images could now be easily shared and discussed in a public setting. Perhaps the hit of the show was Stephanie Delazeri's overview of erotic slides and their historical context. It was one of the award-winning presentations recognized at the end of the convention.

The performances were equally as varied. We were treated to classic performances such as Edgar Allen Poe's The Raven by the esteemed Terry Borton. We also heard new voices share their modern stories using old technology, like Solstice Theatre IE's shadow show on a "crankie" theater.

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## A Newcomer's Perspective continued



**Terry Borton demonstrates a mechanical slide**

Between presentations, attendees gathered in the adjacent vendor room to search for treasures, including slides, books, projectors, and ephemera. There were not many projectors, though, likely due to the difficulty transporting them long distances. Instead, some vendors brought catalogs that could be perused for later orders. Between the vendors and the auction at the end of the convention, I was able to add a few new pieces to my collection.

My most valuable acquisitions, though, were the inspiration, knowledge, and friendship shared by the attendees. Karl Link, president of the Magic Lantern Society, shared that the size of the society was more or less static. From a newcomer's perspective, there isn't a reason the Society can't grow, when it puts on such welcoming and quality events as this one. I intend to be back in 2 years, hopefully as a more active contributor.



**Larry Rakow shows animated books to Kevin Segall in the vendor room**



**The Crankie Theater**



## A Big Thank You to the following:

David Evans  
Brett King  
Mannoni Laurent  
Donald McCavitt  
Brian Rogers  
Matt Schnittke

**for contributing  
to this month's issue.**

## Upcoming Specialty Auction on 9 November 2024

**AUCTION TEAM BREKER**

THE SPECIALISTS FOR »TECHNICAL ANTIQUES«

World's Leading Specialty Auctions: Office Antiques, Photographica & Film,  
Science & Technology, Mechanical Music



9 November 2024

### Fascinating Autumn Auction

Did you check the upcoming new  
specialty Auctions of Science &  
Technology - Mechanical Music -  
Rare Tin Toys - Photographica &  
Film?

<https://betgl.r.ag.d.sendibm3.com/mk/mr/sh/SMJz09SDriOHVC2uPx6EpNWPFaHm/jFu1sJoaPax0>

## Conservatory of techniques of the French Cinematheque

### CINEMATHEQUE



DIALOGUE WITH STEPHEN BERKMAN  
HOSTED BY LAURENT MANNONI

<https://www.cinematheque.fr/intervention/309928.html>

French Cinematheque, 51 rue de  
Bercy Paris 7th

**Friday, November 8, 5 p.m.**

### From Mannoni Laurent

[l.mannoni@cinematheque.fr](mailto:l.mannoni@cinematheque.fr)

Meet the photographer Stephen Berkman

On the occasion of the very beautiful exhibition Zohar Studios: Predicting the Past dedicated to him in Paris (ArsenicGalerie, 14 rue Guénégaud, Paris 6th, until December 21, 2024), meeting with the astonishing American photographer Stephen Berkman, born in Syracuse (New York), based in Los Angeles, professor at the Art Center College of Pasadena.

Author in 2020 of a splendid book, much noted for its originality and quality, Predicting the Past, Zohar Studios: the Lost Years, Stephen Berkman tells, through supposedly old photographs, the story – true or imaginary? – of Shimmel Zohar, a Jewish photographer and founder of the Zohar studio. Furthermore, Stephen Berkman is also known for being the author of the “old” photographs seen in several American period films, such as Cold Mountain (Anthony Minghella, 2003), Lone Ranger (Gore Verbinski, USA, 2013), Wonder Woman (Patty Jenkins, 2020), Killers of the Flower Moon (Martin Scorsese, 2023).

To do this, Berkman has recreated a glass studio in Pasadena, a chemical laboratory, he uses old cameras and lenses, and resurrects forgotten techniques: tintype, wet collodion, and soon daguerreotype... He also plays his own role as a photographer for Gore Verbinski and Martin Scorsese. Thanks to his generosity, the Cinémathèque française preserves several of his original photographs, unique pieces made in a single copy: portraits of Nicole Kidman, Jude Law, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp... Discussion led by Laurent Mannoni and followed by a book signing session for Stephen Berkman's book, Zohar Studios: Predicting the Past, Preface by Martin Scorsese,